

**FINAL REPORT OF THE AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
to
Joint Committee on Government and Finance
2016 - 2017 Interims**

Members

Senate

**Senator Robert Karnes, Chair
Senator Bob Beach
Senator Mark Maynard
Senator Ron Miller
Senator Dave Sypolt
Senator Bob Williams**

House

**Delegate Roy Cooper, Chair
Delegate Carol Miller
Delegate Bill Anderson
Delegate Ray Canterbury
Delegate Allen Evans
Delegate William Hartman
Delegate Lynwood Ireland**

The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee during the 2016-2017 period to discuss and study various agricultural and agribusiness issues.

The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee participated in a Joint Government Accountability, Transparency and Efficiency Committee discussing purchases by the Department of Agriculture, with Mike Teets and Bob Tabb addressing the issues.

The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee invited Melinda Walls, Assistant Vice President; Jordan Masters, WVU student; Emily Wells, WVU Extension and a WVU graduate; and Micah Allen, WVU student, to discuss their agricultural innovations as part of the West Virginia University Launch Lab.

Kent Leonhardt, Commissioner of Agriculture-Elect, also discussed his vision for the Department of Agriculture.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Robert Karnes, Chair

Delegate Roy Cooper, Chair